Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) is responsible for collecting air quality data throughout the county to fulfill MCAQ’s mission to improve and maintain air quality and reduce exposure to unhealthy levels of air pollution.

There are many aspects of the Friendship Park Monitoring Station that, when combined, allow MCAQ to confidently provide you with air quality data you can use to make health decisions.

For example, the location of the Friendship Park Monitoring Station was carefully selected (with input from community leaders and approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) to be representative of the larger community.

As a “regulatory monitor” (a monitor that collects data used in regulator’s decision making), the data collected at the Friendship Park Monitoring Station is scientifically and legally defensible. Quality control and quality assurance procedures are in place before, during, and after data is collected to guarantee the highest level of accuracy and precision. This gives MCAQ confidence in the data we provide on airquality.mecknc.gov/data.

WHAT MAKES THE FRIENDSHIP PARK MONITORING STATION SPECIAL?

Accuracy and Precision

Accurate Low Precision  Not Accurate High Precision  Accurate High Precision

What are some natural sources of PM?
Name a human made PM source?
In what ways can you reduce PM in your community?
What is the difference between accuracy and precision?
Why is it important for MCAQ’s regulatory monitors to be both accurate and precise?
WHAT IS PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5?

Particulate Matter 2.5 or its abbreviation PM 2.5, are tiny particles measuring 2.5 microns. To give you some perspective the human hair measures approximately 50 microns so PM is very small. Sources of PM 2.5 can be human made such as charbroiling, construction equipment, trains, vehicle exhausts, and many more. Some natural sources of PM 2.5 pollution are wildfires, dust, sea salt, and volcano eruptions.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF PM 2.5?

PM 2.5 is small enough to travel deep into the lungs and can get into the bloodstream. Sometimes it can make you cough or harder to catch your breath. Once inhaled PM2.5 can affect your heart and lungs causing serious health effects.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR HEALTH?

You can use the Air Quality Index (AQI) which is a color-coded scale used to effectively communicate the health impacts of air quality. Higher AQI values mean greater health concern since there is more outdoor air pollution.

Go to enviroflash.info/signup.cfm and sign up to receive alerts through the AirNow website and stay current on air quality data in your community.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

- Air Quality Forecast – https://www.airnow.gov
- Particulate Matter Webpage –
  https://www.mecknc.gov/LUESA/AirQuality/EducationandOutreach/Pages/CriteriaPollutants.aspx#PM
- Air Quality Index Information – https://www.mecknc.gov/luesa/AirQuality/EducationandOutreach/Pages/qaqi.aspx

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Air Quality

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